

'Moscow News-85' Prize—Premiere of Gymnastics



Gymnastics has entered another four-year period, and the tournament at the gymnastic podium of the Olympic complex allows this to take a look at the future of this sport. This is the time of this year's contest which has gathered new names, famous coaches, referees and specialists. What are they thinking about today? What are they expecting from the contests? These questions were in the focus of the conversations your correspondents had during the competitions.

Heights of gymnastics and judging

Gymnastics is now in a very interesting stage of its development, thinks Olympic champion Lyudmila Turishcheva (USSR)—member of the women's technical committee of the International Gymnastics Federation. The level of performances is now so high that the Federation had to look for new systems of evaluation of judging, to keep in step with the times and encourage progress. For instance, while earlier the formula of requirements looked like this: risk, originality, additional group "C" (i.e. elements of the highest complexity), now it looks somewhat different: originality, the additional group of complexity plus virtuosity. It means that it is not enough to simply perform elements of the top group of complexity. They have to be done with virtuosity.

The past four years show that gymnastics has made a new step forward, its popularity in the world continues to grow, and so our international federation will have still more work to do, stressed Karl-Heinz Zischke (the GDR), president of the men's technical committee of the Federation. Specifically, there was recently much criticism from sportsmen and specialists on judging. I think that with the help of the concentration offered by the new system of judging we shall achieve objectivity.

For instance, while earlier any one mistake entailed a reduction of 0.3 to 0.5 points and this provided the opportunity for the divergence of points, now the likelihood of divergence has been decreased by far. The reduction is concrete: for this mistake — 0.2, for that — 0.3. The events of the new season will show the validity of the new system.

These pictures were taken shortly before the competition at a practice session. The participants familiarized themselves with the apparatus and each other. One could sense their pre-trial anxiety and the desire to do their best.

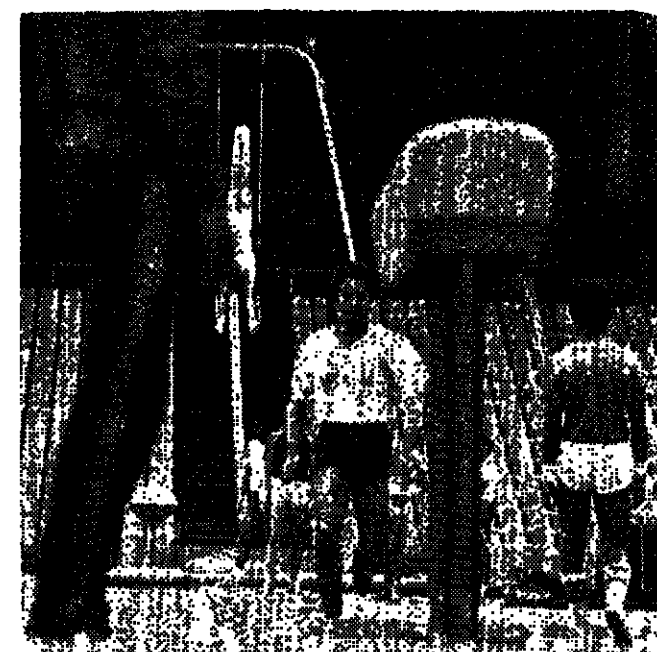
Top left: a group of gymnasts, among them guests from Morocco, in practice. Right: GDR gymnasts. Bottom: Spanish gymnasts in training.



Impressions of foreign guests

The sportsmen of Britain always come with pleasure to this competition, for it enables them to meet on the gymnastic platform with those who prepare for the biggest competitions as well as check their readiness for the season, considers the coach of the team of this country Colin Wright.

The "Moscow News" paper and the Japanese "Chunichi Shimbun" are doing a very big affair, gathering every year young men and women from various countries for gymnastic competitions, said noted Japanese coach, professor of Chukyo University



need organizing experience now for preparing and holding this August, pan-Arab international competitions in Rabat and Casablanca.

The team of China comes for the event for a fourth time, said head of the delegation Huang Xiaoying, and we consider that it helps our young sportsmen to learn to conduct the tournament struggle. The Soviet and Chinese gymnastics federations are successfully cooperating, which brings positive fruits in the preparation of high-class sportsmen. Last spring a Soviet team entered an international competition in Peking and produced a great impression with their mastery on our gymnastics fans. I hope that the programmes of our young sportsmen, too, will appeal to Muscovites.

I am for the first time at this contest in Moscow and have noticed its organization, the wonderful gym, and the atmosphere of friendship reigning around the meeting of gymnasts of various countries, said Norwegian judge Marion Sletten. Changes are now being made in judging. I hope they will help gymnastics to become a still more beautiful sport.

The "Moscow News" Prize competitions were covered by our special correspondents Alexander BUTSIN, Yevgeny LANFANG and Alexander SOKOLOV. Photos by Alexei FYODOROV.

World championship elimination games

Four games were played in the European qualification group at the 1986 world football cup.

The most goals were scored by the West German team of the West German town of Siegen, who won 6-0, with goals from Rummenigge, Hartung, and the record of the top-scoring player on the national team with 43 goals, one more than the former record of Gerd Müller. Germany leads Group 2 with eight points from four games.

In the Yugoslav town of Zadar the hosts beat Czechoslovakia 1-0. This game may be called a match of missed opportunities. The Yugoslavs had at least five chances to score, but failed to do so. Scotland leads Group 4 with six points from three games.

Scotland unexpectedly lost home to Wales 0-1. This has made more acute the situation in Group 7. Scotland, Wales and Wales are level at four points each.

The game between Belgium and Greece was a hard-fought one. Only ten minutes to go, Belgium scored, and scored a second goal a minute later. Group 1 with five points from four games.

Mikhail Gorbachov meets György Lázár

Mikhail Gorbachov has met György Lázár, Member of the Politbureau of the HSWP Central Committee, Chairman of Hungary's Council of Ministers, in Moscow.

In the course of their discussion they commended the present state of Soviet-Hungarian relations, stressed the unswerving striving of the CPSU and the HSWP to further consolidate the diversified links, brotherly friendship between the peoples of the Soviet Union and Hungary.

They expressed their satisfaction with the long-term programme for the development of economic, scientific and technological cooperation between the USSR and Hungarian People's Republic up to the year 2000 signed recently, and which marks a new important step towards strengthening interaction of the two countries in bringing to fruition the decisions taken by the CMEA Economic Summit.



Sergei Gusev lifts the main prize made by the Gzhel craftsmen.



Yelena Shushunova, winner of the competitions, performing floor exercises.

Days of Hungary in the USSR

State flags of the Soviet Union and the Hungarian People's Republic have been hoisted above the biggest pavilion at the USSR Exhibition of Economic Achievements in Moscow to mark the start of the national exhibition, "Hungary on the Road to Socialism". At this exhibition dedicated to the 40th anniversary of Hungary's liberation from fascism, 125 Hungarian enterprises of various industries and other branches of the economy are demonstrating their products.

A Hungarian Party and Government delegation, led by Chairman of the Hungarian Council of Ministers György Lázár, is in Moscow for the inaugural ceremony.

At the Bolshoi Theatre, the Budapest National Opera and Ballet showed the ballet "The Cedar" to commence Days of Hungarian Culture in the Soviet Union. The National Theatre will also perform "Hungarian Electra" by Bornemisza and Mollere's "Tartuffe".



György Lázár (Chairman of Hungary's Council of Ministers) and Csaba Altvay (First Vice-Chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers) at the inaugural ceremony of the Hungarian National Exhibition.

P.V. NARASIMHA RAO ON VISIT

The USSR Defence Minister, Sergei Sokolov, has held a meeting in Moscow with the Defence Minister of the Republic of India, P. V. Narasimha Rao, now on an official friendly visit. During their discussions the two ministers touched on issues of mutual interest.

Awards for cosmonauts

New Delhi. The Indian President, Zail Singh, has signed a decree conferring the Order of Kirti Chakra, one of the country's highest awards, on Soviet cosmonauts L. Klim, V. Solovoy and O. Alkov. A year ago, the cosmonauts, who were on board the orbital Salyut-7 station, received a joint Soviet-Indian crew which included the first Indian cosmonaut Rakesh Sharma and his Soviet colleague Yu. Malyshev and G. Strakalov.

The members of the joint Soviet-Indian crew, including Yu. Malyshev, G. Strakalov and R. Sharma received India's highest awards — the Ashoka Chakra orders. The stand-by crew—Ravish Malhotra, A. Bezovol, and G. Grechko — also got the Kirti Chakra orders.

Soviet-American economic relations

A meeting recently took place in Moscow between representatives of Soviet and American Associations for the United Nations. The participants discussed issues involved in Soviet-American trade and economic relations, the state and prospects for the development of the economies of the two countries, as well as East-West economic relations and international credit and financing issues.

'MOSCOW NEWS'-85 PRIZE



The main "Moscow News" prizes went to Sergei Gusev and Yelena Shushunova of the USSR.

★ The winners in the women's individual events were: Oksana Omelchenko (USSR) — floor exercises and beam; Shushunova — vault; Oksana Averkova (USSR) — asymmetrical bars.

Those who emerged victorious in the men's individual events were: Vladimir Gogoladze (USSR) — floor exercises, parallel and horizontal bars; Valentin Mogilny (USSR) — pommel horse and rings; Gusev — vault.

★ The paper's prizes were contested by 114 sportsmen (54 men and 60 women) from 29 countries.

★ Prior to the opening of the tournament the participants held a meeting under the slogan — "Gymnasts in the Struggle for Peace". During the tournament a celebration was held in honour of noted Soviet gymnasts — veterans of World War II.

★ The USSR National Olympic Committee awarded its prizes to Miguel Solor of Spain for the most complex combination in the rings and Madeline Tanase of Romania for a new element.

★ Shushunova was awarded the Japanese "Chunichi Shimbun" prize for the best allround total.

★ Li Cher Khen of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and Ti Wuli of China received the awards of V/O Mezhdunarodnaya Kniga. The former was the best allround foreign male gymnast while Ti Wuli was considered the best women gymnast.

★ The national voluntary society of book lovers awarded prizes to gymnasts who made the longest trip to Moscow — Georgina Garcia and Diana Florasol, both of Mexico; the most youthful participant, Naima Elguail of Morocco, and the foreign sportsman who competed in six finals — Sylvia Kroll of the GDR.

★ Cuban Luisa Prieto was named the most elegant and charming gymnast of the tournament. She was awarded the prize of the magazine "World Gymnastics" published by the International Gymnastic Federation. (For detailed report please turn to page 8.)

Down with apartheid!

The Soviet Union urges all states to take resolute steps to curb the atrocities of the racist regime in South Africa. The time to institute the effective measures against this regime in line with the UN Charter has long come, stresses a TASS statement published in Moscow.

The statement notes that current events in South Africa testify to the deep crisis in the apartheid regime. The so-called constitutional reforms advertised by Pretoria have not and could not alleviate the sufferings of the people of that country. The essence of the system of apartheid remains the same and is contrary to the basic interests of the masses.

Condemned by the international community, the statement continues, the racist regime has not abandoned its policy of state terrorism against independent African countries. Changes in the constitution in South Africa will not lead to the abolition of apartheid. The apartheid system is a source of tension and conflict in the world. South Africa still refuses to accept the resolutions of the UN and other international bodies on the immediate and unconditional independence to Namibia.

(Continued on page 8)



Mass protests against the criminal apartheid system in the Republic of South Africa (RSA) are not abating. Special riot-control forces were recently dispatched by the apartheid authorities to disperse a peaceful demonstration in Cape Town. Unarmed people were brutally attacked by the regime's thugs. According to the RSA radio corporation, about 300 people were arrested by police.

Photo Reuters-TASS



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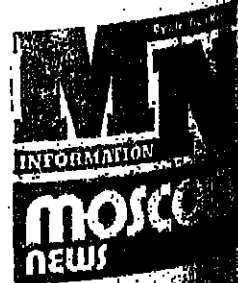
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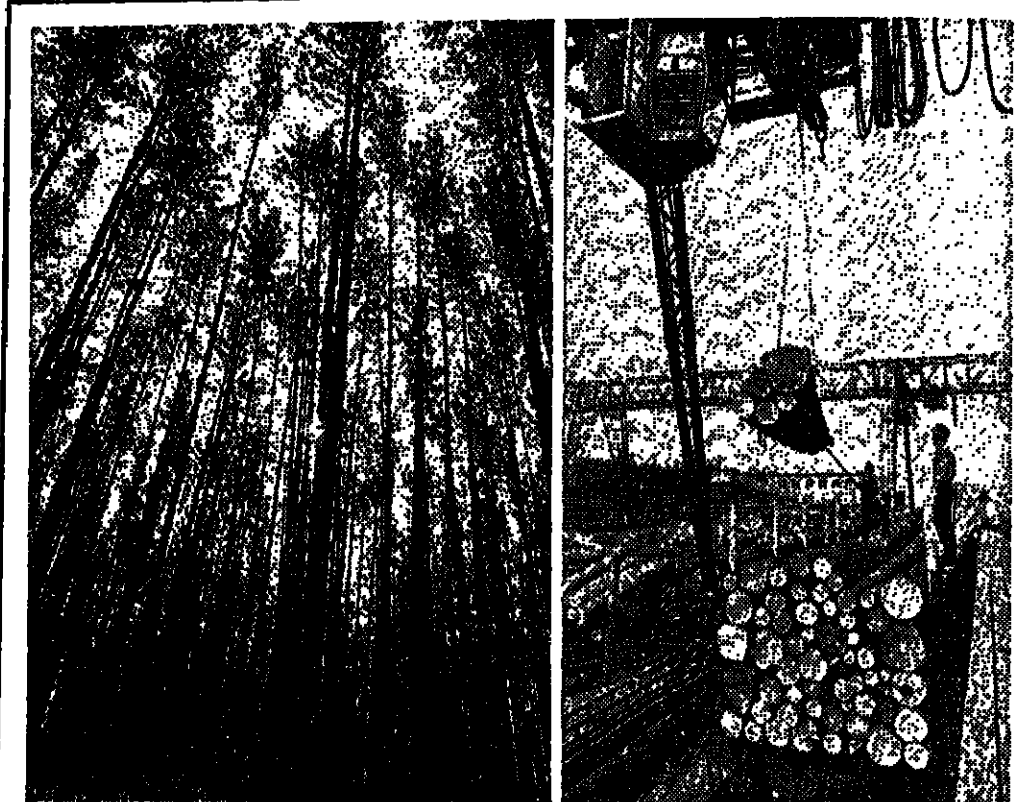
Round the Soviet Union

● CONSTRUCTION OF AN ICEBREAKING FERRY OF A NEW SERIES HAS STARTED AT THE REPAIR SHIPYARD OF THE LITVIAN SHIPPING COMPANY. The new diesel electric vessel has a shallow draft and can carry a large number of passengers and tons of cars. It was designed for an all-year-round navigation between the islands of the Moonsund Archipelago and mainland Estonia.

● THE WORLD'S FIRST STAR ACADEMY — THE YURI GAGARIN COSMONAUT TRAINING CENTRE — CELEBRATES ITS 25TH ANNIVERSARY THIS YEAR. A quarter of a century ago, the first group of young pilots came into the classrooms of a little-known educational establishment and a year later, the world heard the name of the first cosmonaut of the planet.

● PLANTING NEW ORCHARDS OF AN INDUSTRIAL TYPE HAS STARTED ON SPECIALIZED COLLECTIVE AND STATE FARMS IN THE MOUNTAINOUS ZONE OF NORTH OSETIA. This year, previously unused lands along the southern slopes of the Greater Caucasus have been cultivated on a large scale.

● IN VOLGOGRAD, THE FIRST HALF OF AN UNUSUAL SHAPED HOUSE HAS BEEN COMMISSIONED AND A SECOND HALF IS UNDER CONSTRUCTION. The exterior looks like an integral mathematical sign. This is not an architectural whim. The architects have managed to place the building on a section of Volgograd crisscrossed by ravines. They have taken care of the convenience of the residents. Two-storey flats have been designed on floors nine to twelve. Alleys for strolls will stretch beneath green ravines.



RUSSIAN FORESTS

In the Soviet Union forests cover huge areas — more than one-third of the country's territory, or one-fourth of the world total. This amounts to 82,000 million cubic metres of lumber. The annual forest growth rates stand at nearly 900 million cubic metres; thus, more than 400 million cubic metres can be felled (approximately one-sixth of the world total) without detriment to the forest. This country produces 118 million cubic metres of lumber, more than 2 million square metres of

plywood, and nearly 10 million tonnes of paper and board. Part of these materials are exported. However, forest is not only an inexhaustible source of raw material, but that of spiritual inspiration for the Russians and tradition.

Forest also means favourable climate, abundant rivers, a habitat for everything that lives, and a recreation site. That is why the Soviet Government has always been concerned with the rational use of forests and adopted corresponding legislation, including the 1970 Fundamentals of Forest Legislation of the USSR and of the Union republics. Not only do these laws regulate timber felling, but also provide for the protection and reproduction of the forests.

Every year, the country allocates more than 1,000 million roubles for the development of the forest industry. Afforestation work is carried out over millions of hectares. By setting up today's plantations, the Soviet people are thinking about the future generations some fifty to one hundred years from now.

NEW HIGH-PERFORMANCE TRUCK TRAILER

MAZ-6422, a new truck designed by the Minsk makers, meets the highest national requirements. Tests conducted in the field showed its excellent safety, driving comfort.

ANOTHER VOLGA-DON CANAL

Construction has started on a new Volga-Don Canal, not for shipping, but for irrigation. Its length is 63 km. Powerful systems with a capacity of 26 cubic metres per second each will pump water from the Volga to the Don. As a result irrigated lands on the adjoining lands of Volgograd and Rostov will be considerably enlarged. In the near future, the walking excavator with a metre bucket will start to dig along the line of the canal. New 330 hp Soviet tractors are also arriving at the building site.

GIANT DUMP TRUCK TESTED

Industrial tests of a truck, BelAZ-75 199, have started at the Neryungri open-pit mine. It differs markedly from other giant cars operating at the Zhodino automobile plant. The automobile has a greater capacity on a 10-tonne truck.

This innovation increased the efficiency of transportation. The BelAZ-75 199 is a high manoeuvrability at a sum of less fuel.

Places to visit



Lenin Museum at Gorki



Lenin's desk at Gorki.

Lenin's life was associated with Gorki. For the first time he went there in 1918 to recover from an attempt on his life.

Before the 1917 October Revolution the estate of Gorki, built in the 18th century, belonged to the governor of Moscow, Retanot. The manor-house is decorated with a six-column portico. Further extensions include a spacious veranda, and a winter garden, surrounded by a park with a pond.

Initially, Lenin spent at Gorki his days off and vacations, and from May 1923 resided there permanently. A very modest person, he considered himself only a tenant. He forbade changing any furniture, stressing that they were state property rather than his personal effects.

At Gorki he was visited by his comrades-in-arms, delegations of workers and peasants, as well as representatives of the world communist and working class movement.

During his stay at Gorki Lenin dictated a number of letters and articles on Party and state problems which are described as his political testament.

In 1942, a memorial house-museum was opened at Gorki as a branch of the Central Lenin Museum in Moscow. In 1972, an historical preserve with a memorial park — Gorki Leninskiye — was set up over an area of 350 hectares. More than 300 thousand visitors come there every year.

GREAT VICTORY

A book written by V. Ryabov has the subtitle: "Short Survey of the Great Patriotic War of the Soviet People". Indeed, in such a small book it is almost impossible to tell all about the historic epic of the Soviet people between 1941 and 1945. But from this concise and convincing book the reader can get quite an idea about why and how the Second

World War broke out, who bore the brunt of it and how it ended.

The younger generation of today will be interested to learn about many historic facts and figures dealing with this war, about what actually happened at the fronts and the major contribution of the USSR to the victory over Nazi Germany. Readers will

find in it documentary evidence by such major statesmen of that time as Winston Churchill, Franklin Delano Roosevelt and Charles de Gaulle; they will know about the role and importance of Soviet victories at the Eastern front.

The book, illustrated with black-and-white photographs, is published in English, French, Spanish, Arabic and other languages.

Science and technology

REMEDY FOR STRESS

Does everyone suffer equally from stress? Having asked themselves this question, Soviet researchers carried out experiments on animals.

In the course of the experiments rats were placed for several days in boxes so small as to make the animals completely immobile. This situation caused a veritable stress in the animals. The result was that rats quietly survived the stress but others died. This means that there is a natural mechanism that "makes stress harmless" which works in some of them but breaks down in the case of others.

The scientists compared the biochemical metabolism in the brains of the rats, which were able to withstand stress and in those which were not. It turns out that in the course of stress resistance during its formation, the rats' brains were able to adapt to the stress. But then in stable conditions the process quickly returns to normal, while in unstable ones it doesn't. That is where the difference lies.

This usually corresponds to the situation when a person is used not to be nervous, excited, but to be calm, and to count on it. Yet will power is not enough in this case.

So researchers began to examine the brain for substances which control the force of stress, substances which can be described as "the brake" of stress.

Such substances have been found. Now scientists have only to make drugs from these substances. Simultaneously, the quest for new and, perhaps, more active substances continues.

SUPER-LIGHT CONCRETE HOUSES

A formula for concrete lighter than water, has been suggested by scientists in Khar'kov.

Trying to make concrete lighter, they pondered on the possibility of finding a substitute for quartz sand which is part of this construction material. It is heavy.

Besides it requires considerable amount of water for its preparation. The dust-like refuse from metallurgical enterprises which has so far found their way into dumps, has proven to be a veritable material among tens of other "candidates" tested. In their solidity, panels made out of this refuse, as experiments show are not inferior to normal panels. At the same time, they enable considerable amount of valuable construction materials to be economized. Cement consumption is reduced, and quartz sand is ruled out. Thanks to this, the weight of every cubic metre of wall panels becomes considerably less.

Light ferro-concrete panels are considerably warmer.

LOVE FOR THE GOLD FISH

There are people whose favourite pets are cats, dogs or fishes.

It is much easier to come to terms with a dog or a cat, as these creatures are able to demonstrate their mood and character. It is hard to understand a fish, as fishes do not speak. It is precisely the art of understanding fishes that classes are dedicated to in the aquarium fans' clubs.

One of these clubs is "Neptune" which unites three hundred official and industrial workers from the Moscow Steel Factory, Serp i Molot. Theoretical and practical classes are given in how to breed fishes, including those which are hard to breed. Piranhas is one of the fishes you see in the photo. Grown-ups bring children. Over a quarter of a century that "Neptune" has been in action, almost three thousand little ones have learnt to understand their gold friends.

At present, the "Neptune" is holding an aquarium exhibition.

Pavel KRAMNOV.

Moscow students prepare for Youth Forum

A week of friendship with the youth of friendship in which young men and women of 70 countries studying at this institute participated was recently held in Moscow Power Institute (MPI). This was the first holiday devoted to the 12th World Festival of Youth and Students. Similar Friendship Week will be held in all the leading educational establishments of the capital.

The activities included discussions by the Institute's International Club, meetings with war veterans and participants in the previous world festivals, concerts by students, sports tournaments and evenings of national cuisine.

The Soviet festival preparatory committee is planning to hold in MPI a number of functions under the student programme. Students already attended additional lessons in foreign languages, study the work of salesmen, waiters and cooks — they will help serve the guests to be hosted by Moscow during the festival.

CONCRETE FOR BANGLADESH

A new type of concrete which is particularly suitable in conditions of Bangladesh, has been made in the capital of Uzbekistan.

It is adequately water resistant, which is of particular importance for that country with frequent floods. It is also cheap as it contains polymers and ashes as substitutes for part of the cement used in manufacturing it.

The new concrete is a product of Bengalese Tahir Shah Muhammad, who received his education at the Tashkent Polytechnic Institute.

SURPRISES OF CAVE OZYORNAYA

Tunnel hewers at the Khadarkan integrated mercury plant in Kirghizia (a Central Asian Republic) have discovered a rich collection of minerals in a vast cave of unique beauty in the depths of mountains and named it Ozyornaya.

It was as though the miners were on a visit to a museum of mineralogy. In the underground palaces they saw incrustations of snow-white calcite, aragonite and barite and, next to them — crystals of cinnabar. Among all this splendour is a cascade of underground lakes surrounded with stones.

It is for a long time already that Soviet speleologists and mineralogy experts have been studying Khadarkan caves which are of great interest for science.

VIEWPOINT

Four months to World Festival



Alexander LOPUKHIN

The Standing Commission of the International Preparatory Committee of the 12th World Festival of Youth and Students due to take place in Moscow this summer, is working now in a beautiful old mansion in the centre of the capital.

The Commission was set up after the third session of the International Preparatory Committee held last year in Moscow. It includes representatives of 64 national preparatory committees of the festival's member-countries and also international, regional youth and student organizations of different political orientations. Also represented are such major international youth organizations as the World Federation of Democratic Youth, the International Union of Students and many regional organizations.

The principal goal of the Standing Commission is to establish close contacts with national preparatory committees and all other organizations involved. It is also to circulate information about the tasks and aims of the 12th World Festival and about the progress in the preparatory activities — at the national and international levels — of the broadest possible layers of youth and students. The Commission's other goal is to provide all the necessary material and technical conditions for holding the international forum, and to promote successful fund-raising campaigns for the festival's International Solidarity Fund. The growing interest in the Moscow festival will contribute to the success of the work of the Standing Commission.

The active support of numerous youth and student organizations of different political orientations, the setting up of broad-based national preparatory committees in more than 100 countries; the holding of various activities in preparation for the festival at national and international levels — all these testify to the interest. All members of the Soviet Preparatory Committee, youth and student organizations of the USSR have already established close contacts and hold regular consultations with members of the Standing Commission.

Members of the Standing Commission of the International Preparatory Committee can take advantage of their work in Moscow to gain better knowledge of life in the Soviet society, of Soviet youth, and to fully appreciate how the Soviet people cherish peace and friendship with other nations.

Organizationally the festival is often compared with the Olympics as to the large number of its participants and the packed programme. Many pressmen will also attend the festival. I deal with press matters and I can say that everything that is necessary is being done towards this end. Press-centres are being equipped, press-releases in many languages are already being published and many other materials are being prepared. Several applications continue to be received from newspapers, news agencies, and radio and TV networks from all over the world.

Handwritten text in Cyrillic script, likely a signature or note.

FROM THE SOVIET PRESS

QUEST FOR ADVANCED CONSTRUCTION TECHNOLOGY

Since 1981, EKONOMICHESKAYA GAZETA reports, much has been done to improve the technical level and quality of construction, road-building and municipal engineering products: 518 machines and units of new types were put into pilot production, 437 items modernized and some 400 obsolete structures are no more produced. Over the past four years the industry has made use of over a thousand inventions and 80 thousand inventive proposals, considerably enhancing the overall performance of machines.

Robots stand prominently in the plans for the 1986-1990 five-year development plan. Being developed are robots for plastering, painting and other finishing operations which will be supplemented by a range of manipulators.

All basic machines and their modifications will be provided with an extensive family of various implements and tools with due account being made of local conditions, including the north. Modular design is being used more often, providing for higher standardization and better specialization. Designers pay special attention to operating performance, metal and energy saving, higher reliability and longer service life.

SCIENTIFIC DEVELOPMENT OF SIBERIA

Today the minerals of Siberia are the main treasure trove of the country's natural resources, writes the newspaper TRUD. 85 per cent of Soviet Union's power reserves — oil, coal, natural and casing-head gas and hydroresources are concentrated in this region which covers 40 per cent of Soviet territory. Siberia accounts for 80 per cent of the world's coal deposits, 20 per cent of forests. Its role in the development of the USSR national economy is steadily growing.

Scientists greatly contribute to the development of the region. A programme "Sibir" has been formulated at the Siberian Branch of the USSR Academy of Sciences. It is a complex of scientific research and development projects of regional, intersectoral nature, the aim of which are to make a fundamental scientific appraisal and facilitate effective utilization of Siberia's natural resources, as well as further development of its productive forces. The programme "Sibir" includes six basic aspects: mineral resources, biological resources, regional-economic programmes, intersectoral pro-

grammes of particular complexity, technical and technological programmes, Siberia's power engineering.

Practically all sections of the Siberian Branch of the USSR Academy of Sciences, more than 350 research and design institutes of about 60 ministries and departments all over the country are engaged in the fulfilment of these tasks.

LASER IN MEDICINE

It is not so very often that a revolutionary discovery of human genius — the laser in our case — quickly finds so many uses in science, technology and medicine. Prof. Oleg Skobeikin, who heads the National Centre for Laser Surgery, writes in MEDITSINSKAYA GAZETA.

There is nothing enigmatic about it as a laser beam has such unique advantages as bloodless dissection of tissues, controllable evaporation of pathological foci, and their coagulation and sterilization. The fact that laser radiation can be transmitted via a flexible light guide opens up unlimited opportunities for diagnostics and treatment of various pathological processes occurring in vessels and deep cavities in the human body, without resorting to scalpel.

Notable progress in laser surgery in the USSR was encouraged by a whole family of laser installations of which Skalpel-I, Skalpel-II and Romashka are the most famous.

The more effective laser technology the more uses it finds in medicine. This, however, does not mean that laser will replace the scalpel or electric knife. On the contrary, the laser only enhances the possibility of surgery.

At the present time, lasers are efficiently used in operations on the stomach and intestines, lungs, in urology, proctology and oncology. Microsurgery also makes use of lasers to weld together small vessels, nerves and tendons.

EXPLOITING OCEAN RESOURCES

Our future is inconceivable without developing the ocean — the richest pantry of biological and mineral resources — V. Chichkanov, Corresponding Member of the USSR Academy of Sciences, writes in the weekly ARGUMENTY I FAKTY. Today, the ocean adds between three to four per cent to the cost of the entire world produce. Yet, in the near future its contribution will increase substantially.

Linked with the World Ocean are many plans in the

solution of the energy, food, raw materials and other problems. Soviet scientists and specialists are seeking to make rational use of this wealth, including the implementation of the USSR Food Programme.

Modern approach to the development of food resources of the ocean presupposes a shift from "gathering" marine organisms to growing them purposefully and raising their productivity. Thus, this country is successfully solving the problem of artificial reproduction of Oriental salmon. Being implemented are complex programmes which provide, among other things, for the construction of eight new fish nurseries and modernization of seven existing ones. Specialists estimate that this will give the country 400,000 tonnes of delicious sea fish. The state finds it profitable economically to develop marine farming. In breeding salmon fish, every rouble invested yields four to eight roubles in profit.

AESTHETIC EDUCATION OF FUTURE WORKERS

Six excursions on specially worked out programmes are arranged daily for the pupils of Leningrad vocational schools to the halls of the world-famous Hermitage Art Museum (its unique collection has approximately 2.7 million exhibits). It is daily visited by 3.5 million people, including many guests from developing countries.

The staff members of the Hermitage, as well as the Russian Museum and the Leningrad River Open Air Ballet Theatre are now working on a programme for a three-year course in aesthetics for pupils of vocational schools.

It is noteworthy that the programme of the department of "Aesthetic Education" — has been introduced in vocational schools in the country; irrespective of the profession they offer. (The total population of vocational schools now stands at more than four million.) There are corresponding textbooks and teaching aids and the students enjoy the services of numerous cultural and art institutions (libraries, museums, galleries and theatres).

Life convincingly shows that the efforts and expenses on the cultural development and education of the younger generation of workers are not only justified but are also a correct and humane way of developing the main productive forces of society, writes V. Lytkh, a well-known scholar and D. Sc. (PhD) in SOVIETSKAYA KULTURA.

